

28. (New) The composition of claim 27 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or active HCV NS3 domain truncation analog has a partial internal amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 63.

29. (New) The composition of claim 27 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or active HCV NS3 domain truncation analog has a partial internal amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 64.

30. (New) The composition of claim 27 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or active HCV NS3 domain truncation analog has a partial internal amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 65.

31. (New) A composition comprising a purified proteolytic hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide wherein said HCV polypeptide comprises a fusion protein comprising a fusion partner fused to a HCV NS3 domain protease or to an active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog.

32. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein said fusion partner comprises human superoxide dismutase.

33. (New) The composition of claim 31 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog has a partial internal amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 63.

34. (New) The composition of claim 31 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog has a partial internal amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 64.

35. (New) The composition of claim 31 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog has a partial internal amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 65.

36. (New) A method for assaying compounds for activity against hepatitis C virus comprising the steps of:

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